

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. Foldable easel for use on a level surface, the easel comprising a pair of opposing support members, a pair of opposing pedestal members and a positioning tab, each support
5 member having a lower portion, a respective pedestal member being attached to the lower portion of a respective support member, the support members being rotatably connected in a vertical central joint, the positioning tab having an attachment end rotatably attached to one of the support members in a tab joint adjacent to the central joint and the opposing support member having a receiving insert adjacent to the central joint, the receiving insert having a tab rib on the end of the
10 receiving insert opposite the central joint, the positioning tab having a free end, and the positioning tab having a peripheral edge with one or more tab slots in the peripheral edge.
2. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein the positioning tab is semi-circular with a tab
edge which is more or less vertical on the free end, the receiving insert encompassing the free end
15 when the easel is in a flat configuration.
3. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein the support member that the positioning tab is
attached to has an attachment insert contiguous to the receiving insert, the attachment insert
having a horizontal insert base and the attachment end of the positioning tab having a horizontal
20 tab edge, the insert base being rotatably attached to the tab edge in a horizontal tab joint and the attachment insert encompassing the attachment end when the easel is in a flat configuration.

4. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein the tab slots are dimensioned to fit snugly on the tab rib as the left support member and right support member are rotated from the flat position to a display position and the positioning tab is rotated from an unlocked position to a locked position.

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5. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein the left support member is divided into a left top panel and left bottom panel, the left top panel and the left bottom panel being rotatably connected in a horizontal left panel joint, and wherein the right support member is divided into a right top panel and right bottom panel, the right top panel and the right bottom panel being rotatably connected in a horizontal right panel joint.

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6. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein the easel is of unitary construction.

7. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein the easel is of unitary construction with the joints formed by scoring of the easel material.

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8. Easel as recited in Claim 6 wherein the easel is constructed of cardboard.

9. Easel as recited in Claim 7 wherein the easel is constructed of cardboard.

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10. Easel as recited in Claim 6 wherein the easel is constructed of plastic.

11. Easel as recited in Claim 7 wherein the easel is constructed of plastic.

12. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein each pedestal member has a pedestal top, each support member has an outside edge with a tapered upper portion which tapers from the
5 respective pedestal top inwardly toward the central joint, and each pedestal top is roughly perpendicular to the tapered upper portion of the support member to which it is attached.

13. Easel as recited in Claim 1 wherein each support member has an outside edge with a vertical lower portion and a tapered upper portion and each respective pedestal member is
10 rotatably attached to the vertical lower portion of the respective support member in a vertical pedestal joint.

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14. Foldable easel for use on a level surface, the easel comprising:

a) pair of opposing support members, namely a left support member and right support member, the left support member and right support member being rotatably connected at a vertical central joint, the left support member having a left outside edge, the left outside edge having a left outside edge lower portion which is vertical and the left outside edge having a left outside edge upper portion which tapers from the top of the vertical lower portion inwardly toward the central joint, the right support member having a right outside edge, the right outside edge having a right outside edge lower portion which is vertical, the right outside edge having a right outside edge upper portion which tapers from the top of the vertical lower portion inwardly toward the central joint, the left support member having a left tab insert, the right support member having a right tab insert, the left tab insert being contiguous to the right tab insert at the vertical central joint, the left tab insert and the right tab insert together forming a central tab insert;

b) pair of opposing pedestal members, namely a left pedestal member and a right pedestal member, the left pedestal member being rotatably connected to the vertical lower portion of the left outside edge in a left pedestal joint and the right pedestal member being rotatably connected to the vertical lower portion of the right outside edge in a right pedestal joint, each pedestal member having a top edge which is roughly perpendicular to the tapered upper portion of the support member to which it is rotatably connected; and

c) positioning tab, the positioning tab being dimensioned to be encompassed by the

central tab insert when the easel is in an unfolded, flat configuration, the positioning tab having an attachment end which is rotatably connected in a horizontal tab joint to an attachment insert, the attachment insert being the left tab insert or the right tab insert, the positioning tab having a free end with a peripheral edge having one or more tab slots, a receiving insert, the tab insert opposing the attachment insert, having a tab rib.

15. Easel as recited in Claim 14 wherein the positioning tab is semi-circular with a tab edge which is more or less vertical on the free end.

16. Easel as recited in Claim 14 the tab slots are dimensioned to fit snugly on the tab rib as the left support member and right support member are rotated from the flat position to a display position and the positioning tab is rotated from an unlocked position to a locked position.

17. Easel as recited in Claim 14 wherein the left support member is divided into a left top panel and left bottom panel, the left top panel and the left bottom panel being rotatably connected in a horizontal left panel joint, and wherein the right support member is divided into a right top panel and right bottom panel, the right top panel and the right bottom panel being rotatably connected in a horizontal right panel joint.

18. Easel as recited in Claim 14 wherein the easel is of unitary construction.

19. Easel as recited in Claim 14 wherein the easel is of unitary construction with the joints formed by scoring of the easel material.

20 Easel as recited in Claim 18 wherein the easel is constructed of cardboard.

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21. Easel as recited in Claim 19 wherein the easel is constructed of cardboard.

22. Easel as recited in Claim 18 wherein the easel is constructed of plastic.

10 23. Easel as recited in Claim 19 wherein the easel is constructed of plastic.

24. Foldable easel for use on a level surface, the easel comprising:

- a) pair of opposing support members, each support member having an inside edge and an outside edge, the inside edge of the support members being rotatably connected in a vertical central joint, and the outside edge of the support members having a vertical lower portion and a tapered upper portion which is tapered from the top of the vertical lower portion toward the vertical central joint;
- b) pair of opposing pedestal members, a pedestal member being connected to the vertical bottom portion of the outside edge of a respective support member in a vertical pedestal joint; and
- c) positioning means attached to the support members at the vertical central joint for selectively positioning the support members in one or more display positions.

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25. Easel as recited in Claim 24 wherein the positioning means comprises a positioning tab, the positioning tab having an attachment end which is rotatably connected in a horizontal tab joint to an attachment support member, the attachment support member being one of the support members, the positioning tab having a free end with a peripheral edge having one or more tab slots, the support member opposing the support member to which the positioning tab is attached having a receiving insert which is contiguous to the vertical central joint, the receiving insert having a tab rib opposing the vertical central joint.

26. Easel as recited in Claim 25 wherein the positioning tab is semi-circular.

27. Easel as recited in Claim 25 wherein the attachment support member has an attachment insert with a horizontal insert base and the attachment end of the positioning tab has a horizontal tab edge, the insert base being rotatably attached to the tab edge in a horizontal tab joint and the attachment insert encompassing the attachment end when the easel is in the flat configuration.

28. Easel as recited in Claim 25 wherein the tab slots are dimensioned to fit snugly on the tab rib as the left support member and right support member are rotated from the flat position to a display position and the positioning tab is rotated from an unlocked position to a locked position.

29. Easel as recited in Claim 24 wherein the left support member is divided into a left top panel and left bottom panel, the left top panel and the left bottom panel being rotatably connected in a horizontal left panel joint, and wherein the right support member is divided into a right top panel and right bottom panel, the right top panel and the right bottom panel being rotatably connected in a horizontal right panel joint.

30. Easel as recited in Claim 24 wherein the easel is of unitary construction.

31. Easel as recited in Claim 24 wherein the easel is of unitary construction with the joints formed by scoring of the easel material.

32. Easel as recited in Claim 30 wherein the easel is constructed of cardboard.

33. Easel as recited in Claim 31 wherein the easel is constructed of cardboard.

34. Easel as recited in Claim 30 wherein the easel is constructed of plastic.

35. Easel as recited in Claim 31 wherein the easel is constructed of plastic.

36. Easel as recited in Claim 24 wherein each pedestal member has a top edge and the top edge of each pedestal member is roughly perpendicular to the tapered portion of the support member to which it is connected.

37. Easel as recited in Claim 24 wherein each pedestal member is rotatably attached to the lower portion of the respective support member in the respective vertical pedestal joint.